

Lent at New Season



What is Lent

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Lent has become a season of prayer, fasting and service lasting forty days from Ash Wednesday until Easter (not counting Sundays). Lent is a time to recognize our own mortality (that we will one day all die) and to engage in repentance (turning from our sin and brokenness) all in preparation for the great message of Easter that Jesus' life, death and resurrection brings eternal life, forgiveness, and mercy. You will find below some ways we at New Season Church we will be observing Lent. We hope you will join us in observing this holy season.

Lenten and Easter Calendar at New Season Church

February 16th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30PM
February 17th	Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM
March 20th	Saturday of Service
March 28th	Palm Sunday- Festival of the Palms/ Egg Hunt- Timberlake Subdivision
April 1st	Maundy Thursday Dinner 6:30 PM
April 2nd	Good Friday- Viewing of Passion of the Christ Movie 6:30 PM
April 3rd-4th	Prayer Vigil Beginning 7PM on Saturday until Sunrise Sunday morning
April 4th	Sunrise Service
	Easter Sunday Worship Celebration Experience 10:30AM

Lenten Challenge

As we move through Lent this year and prepare for Easter you are challenged to observe a holy Lent by engaging in prayer and worship, fasting and service.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer

You are invited to be recommit this Lenten season to personal prayer on a daily basis. You might combine this with a recommitment to a more regular devotional life. Below are some resources that will help you increase the regularity of your prayer and devotional life. These websites contain brief daily readings and prayers to help you on the journey.

www.UpperRoom.org/devotional

www.d365.org/todaysdevotion/

www.northumbriacommunity.org/index.php/pray-the-daily-office

www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/daily_prayer/

You may also want to combine your prayer with taking a Bible reading challenge. Here are a couple you can check out:

- www.backtothebible.org/news/21-day-bible-reading-challenge.html 21 days through the Gospel of John
- www.fumcirving.org/education/schedule4.htm Read the whole Bible in a year
- Read a chapter of Proverbs everyday- it will make you wise.

Easter Prayer Vigil

We will observe an Easter Prayer Vigil beginning on Holy Saturday at 7:00PM and ending at sunrise on Sunday morning. Persons are encouraged to partner with someone else for two hour time increments. A prayer guide will be furnished. We will begin to have sign ups in the worship program real soon so be on the lookout.

Worship

There will be a number of ways to worship this Lent.

—*Ash Wednesday Service*- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM on February 17th with the imposition of ashes (the mark of the cross in ashes on your forehead) as we mark the beginning of the journey of Lent.

—*Palm Sunday/ Festival of Palms*- As part of our regularly scheduled 10:30AM worship service we will have a unique service to mark Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem for the last week of his life and the beginning of what is known as Holy Week.

—*Maundy Thursday*- Thursday is the day we mark Jesus' Last Supper with his followers. We will gather for a meal and communion at 6:30PM.

—*Sunrise Service*- The Bible says Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning and found the tomb empty. Come out and mark the beginning of Easter with a sunrise service as we welcome the truth that Jesus lives! Those present will go out for breakfast after the brief service.

—*Easter Service*- join us at 10:30AM on Easter Sunday for a celebratory worship celebrating that not even death could hold Jesus or thwart God's plan to save humanity.

Fasting

You are challenged to fast or abstain from food (or an alternative item) this Lent as your health allows. We will fast as a congregation beginning after dinner on Thursday evening until dinner on Friday evening each week of Lent. Persons with health conditions that prevent them from fasting should abstain from other items besides food (television, radio, computer, etc.). For a complete explanation of the Fasting Challenge visit

http://www.archive.org/download/Rev.RobbAlmyPrayerandFastingGuide/prayer_and_fasting_guide.doc.

Service

On Saturday March 20th we will gather for a day of service in our community. Lent is not only a time for self-examination but also a time to examine the ways in which our hurting world cried out for help. When Jesus ate with his followers for the last time on Maundy Thursday he gave them a new command "to love one another." He then proceeded to wash their feet. It is in this spirit of service that we seek to serve our community. Be on the lookout for specific projects as we mark Lent through our service.